July 6, 1967

Dear Hal,

Have been meaning to write you for some time but I had trouble with the carriage on the typewriter which kept slipping and had to have it fixed causing a needless delay.

Yesterday I received your new book together with the various enclosures, letters, etc. Thanks for sending all this to me, I appreciate your attention in sending them out as promptly as you do knowing how busy you are. Since I have had no chance to study the text completely and have only glanced at parts of the book I'm in no position to comment on your work. I did notice a few typo errors (see page 17- the word should be "entire" in the middle; page 20 - the word should be "octained" near the top). These are minor, of course, but my reading eye picks these out quite readily.

I glanced briefly at the chapter on Similas and have no additional information on him at this point. I did learn however, from our class's investigator who always does a thorough job that "Liberty" magazine (the issue of July 15, 1964) is available from the University of Toronto Library, Toronto 5, Canada. You can write to Katherine Wales, Reference Department. Her letter stated that "Our library owns from volume 39, no. 1 to volume 41, no. 2." This latter one is the one in question. She stated that "we would be happy to check a particular reference for you in any of these issues." My informant says that they will also supply photocopies.

I now have the tape of several Dolan programs that include the following: Weisberg interview (5-9-67); Clarence (looks like Dusek?) interview (5-9-67); Hugh Aynesworth (5-17-67) interview & Edelson interview(Ruby's lawyer) of 5-22-67. It is on 3-3/4 tape and I'm having a copy made and mailed off to you. It'll probably take a week to get it to you. One reason for the delay in getting this to you is that I've had to give up my car after trouble I had with the engine which died on me and would've required a tremendous cost to overhaul. This has cut heavily into my making the contacts so necessary to keep up to date. That's one reason I haven't seen Kessler. I hope very shortly to obtain a used car and a cheap one at that.

With this letter I'm enclosing several enclosures which may have some significance. First is a clipping on the NBC which is fairly objective but leaves a lot to be desired. But this is about the best you can expect from a paper owned by former Senator Knowland. The press here was laudatory about the CBS series which I expected, of course, since they hardly know enough about the case to render any judgment other than the ones they've served up to the public. I notice that even the latest issue of the New Republic praised the NBC show as "one of the best things we've ever seen" or words to that effect. With praise like that it makes me wonder about the rest of NR's critical faculties but that magazine has sadly slipped in the past decade so it is about what could be expected.

If you did not know already, right after Harv Morgan tried to get you on his talk show last week he contacted Paul Hoch and, just by chance, I happened to call him after learning that they were going to do a one-hour capsule documentary based on the four part series. Morgan invited me to appear saying he had been trying to contact me. So we both appeared on the program with little preparation for it although I did have my own notes which I took as I watched the series. The program went of quite well but it just seemed as if we had barely gotten into the case when the time was up. We were hardly able to refute the CBS series although we did point out the totally "unscientific" nature of their tests. I said all that CBS had proved was that on Nov.22 Newton's Laws of motions were violated and that the critics failed to be answered on each of their major points.

Reaction to our appearance was good if you base it on the listeners questions all tending to debunk the CBS series. My only complaint is that we needed more time and didn't really get to the heart of the matter: how the mass media from the start failed to do the job which Eric Sevareid so glowingly says is their sacred obligation. His pearled words don't deceive the intelligent. They're designed to placate the uninformed which, unfortunately, they did, I'm afraid.

I've been toying with the idea of asking Joe Dolan to give us critics equal time and appear on his program in the morning on some Saturday. The trouble is that now it has become dated. You can be sure though that this is not the last of their attempts.

Incidentally, I spoke to the AP wire editor here about the Gavzer piece. We knew this was coming out a few days befor e because the AP held up its wires for about 8 hours and we had the original copy from the wire. It was so long and would have been very costly to duplicate so I could not get it to you as quickly as I wanted to. There have been no changes from the original that both of us have detected, however so it really may not have made that much of a difference.

According to the editor you and I know it is his belief that Moody's imprint is more evident in this hatchet job than is the hand of Gavzer. He claims it is more Moody's style than Gavzer's. He also believes this piece was inspired by Gallagher who is supposed to be a big-wig at AP. If you'll recall I told you about Gavzer some time ago and of information I had given him about Ruby which he found to be the case concerning his homosexuality. He told me that three persons he had interviewed had been propositioned by Ruby lending credence to a story I had given him about Ruby. He once told me I was wasting my time trying to find a conspiracy and pooh-pooed reports of a meeting that Ruby had met with Weissman and Tippit at the Carousel (I was the first person to tell him this). He wasn't at all excited by the information as I was which rather disturbed me knowing a reporter's instincts to check a story out.

I'm enclosing a letter on the Del Valle incident from Bill Barry indicating his disbelief in connecting him with the assassination in even a minor way. What do you think of his views? Think he's telling all he knows?

Understand from a New Orleans report that Bill Turner was down to testify before the Grand Jury. If you haveN8t read his article in the Ramparts issue of June, you should by all means. Although a few minor errors are in it it is quite good. He also tells about the circumstances of Gary Underhill's death. If you'll recall I gave you the details of his death when you were here and asked you to check it out. I also gave you information that does not appear in the Ramparts piece and might be of real significance for Garrison if you have not already discussed this with him.

I checked out the Washington Post for Sunday on Underhill's death in the May 10, 1964 issue (page B6). It says: "Deaths --. Underhill, John Garrett, Jr. On Friday, May 8, 1964, John Garrett Underhill Jr. of 3035 M St. NW. He is survived by his wife, Patricia D. Underhill; one son, John Garrett Underhill III; also a sister, Mrs. Ernest Eltinge of Warwick, N.Y. Services and interment at private in the family cemetery, Oyster Hill, Long Island, N.Y."

Penn Jones in the Midlothian Mirror of June 1, 1967 also says that Underhill had been a military affairs editor for LIFE magazine. Perhaps you can have someone you know who can help you at LIFE find out more about this affair.

The T.D. Click who died in that plane crash is Travy Delano Click. He was a white male, age 23 at death (born 1933) and does not look like he could be the person. I believe the Darryl Click involved is negro based on the source from which I obtained concerning his existence.

Someone has called my attention to a statement made by Liebeler on Feb. 22, 1967 over the Frank Hemingway newscast of that date at 5:30 p.m. (here). It was right after David Ferrie had died. You can see for yourself what he said about Ferrie having flown his airplane over to Texas on Nov.22. This is taken from the transcript whic this person destroyed after having typed from the tape. He assures me it is exactly what he said. We've written Hemingway to see if we can get the original to verify it but the person who typed this statement absolutely assures me of the exactness of each word.

This may not just be a slip by Liebeler and I note that the New York Times of Feb.23, 1967 refers to a "member of the Warren Commission staff" saying that the FBI had accumulated a "great stack" of data on a "suspect". This is almost what Liebeler says in this Hemingway broadcast ("a stack ... a foot thick")

Hemingway seems to have been a favorite vehicle for Liebeler for I notice that just two days before his Feb.22 statement he was also on tape. He then said, referring to New Orleans: "I think New Orleand is a lovely city. I think many times there is a sort of Mardi Gras quality about it that continues beyond Mardi Gras."

If you can see if you can obtain a French magazine known as "Planete" for January/February, 1967. It contains an article with photos that supposedly have not appeared elsewhere on the assassination. There is also something about the Tippit murder in it. It's written by George Langelaan.

I recently established friends with a couple who attended our class and learned that the husband had a crypto clearance. He reads Russian and is leaving for the East Coast this week. I have asked them to look you up and they said they would. Without mentioning his name I'll just say that you'll know who they are when you see them. They're fine people with a real enthusiasm.

Have you given any thought to the fact that the lawyer friend of Jayne Mansfield who died in the car crash near New Orleans was at one time a lawyer for Jack Ruby. Another of the strange coincidences?

In case you're not aware of it Jack Ruby's unlisted telephone number which is allegedly in code in Oswald's address book is also in the Volumes. (See Vol.25, p.235 & also P.237). This makes Earl Ruby's statement that his brother never had an unlisted number a rather embarrasing one particularly so when in the same volume Earl Ruby's calls are mentioned. He should've boned up before he made his statement. NO one else seems to have picked him up on this. Like Wm. Gurvich he should have read the Warren Report so he'd know when not to speak. Incidentally, what was you reaction to him as an investigator when you were down in New Orleans?

The enclosed copy of a letter on Kroman is something you might be interested in. I hope to write the contact on this as soon as I've finished this letter. Interesting that no press accounts ever mention any trip Kroman made to Cuba. I'll let you know what turns up on this.

I'm becoming more and more convinced that Max Clark was Oswald's "baby sitter" when he was in Dallas and that DeMohrenschildt is not the person to look to. If you'll study Clark's testimony carefully you'll see that it was he who was responsible for getting Oswald placed at the TSBD. Randle is usually given the credit for this but this could be deliberate. Clark's interest appears to stem then from what could only be an agency like the CIA. After all, someone had to get Oswald into that building in order to show shots coming from there.

Speaking about the CIA I thought I might mention something I heard on one of the talk radio,programs some time ago. When the Garrison case was being discussed a man called up claiming to have once worked for a gov't agency as a secret agent. He said he believed anti-Castro refugees were probably responsible for the assassination. He made it clear that this was just his belief. Now it just so happens by a curious coincidence that I recognized this voice and I know who this person is and where he lives and in fact he <u>was</u> a CIA agent who was an operative in the Congo. I doN8t know of what use this could possibly be but if you ever want to contact him or want someone else to contact him I can give you his address.

This should bring you up to date. I'll have more, I'm sure in my next letter to you when I hear from you.

In the meantime, best to you and your wife.

Regards,
Hal Verb
Hal Verb